

PLEA AGREEMENT

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Docket No: 6:24-PO-00490-HKB

v.

CHRISTOPHER I. DURELL

This agreement is entered into by and between the United States of America through its lawful representative, the Defendant and counsel for the Defendant. This plea agreement represents all of the terms negotiated by parties. The terms of this written Plea Agreement are as follows:

The Defendant will plead guilty to:

Violation Number E2069964: Delivering or retrieving a person or object by parachute, helicopter, or other airborne means in violation of Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations 2.17(a)(3)

Maximum penalty: 6 months imprisonment, \$5,000 in fines, 5 years of probation.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY GOVERNMENT

In exchange for the Defendant's guilty plea, the Government agrees to make the following recommendations during sentencing regarding, probation, imposition of a fine, and other recommendations.

PROBATION

The Government agrees to recommend the Defendant shall be placed on Unsupervised

Probation for a period of 18 months under standard terms, which include:

- 1) The Defendant shall obey all laws, local, state and federal.
- 2) The Defendant shall advise the Court and Government Officer within seven days of being cited or arrested for any alleged violation of law.

FORFEITURE

The Defendant agrees to forfeit his base-jumping gear including his Asylum Designs canopy and Squirrel Freak Wingsuit. However, the Government will agree to return to the Defendant his GoPro camera, mount, SD card, goggles, water bottle, and stash bag once those

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items are approved for release pursuant to Yosemite National Park's evidence policy.

FINE PAYMENT

The Defendant shall pay a fine as follows:

A fine of \$ 590 plus a \$ 10 Statutory Assessment, a total of \$ 600.

Pay fine in full within first 12 months of sentencing.

OTHER CONDITIONS

The Defendant agrees to complete 40 hours of community service at an organization that supports the National Park Service or a similar organization within the first 12 months of sentencing and submit proof to the court and the Government Officer.

FACTUAL BASIS

If this matter proceeded to trial, the United States would establish the following facts beyond reasonable doubt, which the Defendant agrees are true and correct:

On or about July 15, 2024, US Park Rangers located CHRISTOPHER I. DURELL at Mirror Lake with BASE jumping equipment after receiving a report that someone matching his description had jumped from an area near North Dome. When questioned, DURELL admitted to BASE jumping from Porcelain Wall.

PRIOR CRIMINAL HISTORY

The Defendant understands that the Court will be notified of his prior criminal history: DURELL's criminal history shows 1 arrest for illegally taking wildlife that resulted in a misdemeanor conviction under California Code of Regulations 257.5.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS and WAIVER of RIGHTS by DEFENDANT

The Defendant has read the charges against him and fully understands the nature and element of the crime(s) to which he is pleading guilty, together with the possible defenses thereto.

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Defendant agrees that this plea agreement shall be filed with the Court and become a part of the record of the case.

The Defendant acknowledges that this plea of guilty is freely and voluntarily made and not the result of force or threats or of promises apart from those set forth in this plea agreement. There have been no representations or promises from anyone as to what sentence this Court will impose.

Defendant understands and agrees that he will not be allowed to withdraw his plea should the Court fail to follow the government's sentencing recommendations.

Defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives his Constitutional and statutory rights to appeal his plea, conviction and sentence. This waiver of appeal includes, but is not limited to, an express waiver of Defendant's right to appeal his plea, conviction and sentence on any ground, including any appeal right conferred by 18 U.S.C. § 3742, and Defendant further agrees not to contest his plea, conviction and sentence in any post-conviction proceeding, including but not limited to a proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 2255. Notwithstanding the defendant's waiver of appeal, the defendant will retain the right to appeal if one of the following circumstances occurs: (1) the sentence imposed by the Court exceeds the statutory maximum; and/or (2) the government appeals the sentence in the case.

Defendant understands that by pleading guilty he surrenders certain rights, including the following:

(a) If Defendant persisted in a plea of not guilty to the charges against him, he would have the right to a public and speedy trial. The trial would be a trial by a judge sitting without a jury. Defendant does not have a right to a trial by jury.

(b) At trial, the judge would find the facts, would presume that the Defendant is innocent of the charges and, after hearing all the evidence, must be persuaded of the Defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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(c) At a trial, the government would be required to present its witnesses and other evidence against Defendant. Defendant would be able to confront those government witnesses and his attorney would be able to cross-examine them. In turn, Defendant could present witnesses and other evidence on his own behalf. If the witnesses for Defendant would not appear voluntarily, he could require their attendance through the subpoena power of the Court.

(d) At a trial, Defendant would have a privilege against self-incrimination so that he could decline to testify, and no inference of guilt could be drawn from this refusal to testify. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty he is waiving all of the rights set forth above and understands the consequences of his waiver of those rights.

The Defendant agrees to waive all rights under the “Hyde Amendment,” Section 617, P.L. 105-119 (Nov. 26, 1997), to recover attorneys’ fees or other litigation expenses in connection with the investigation and prosecution of all charges in the above-captioned matter and of any related allegations (including without limitation any charges to be dismissed pursuant to this Agreement and any charge previously dismissed).

Deportation Consequences: Defendant recognizes that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to his immigration status if he is not a citizen of the United States. Under Federal law, crimes involving controlled substances, firearms, aggravated felonies, or moral turpitude are deportable offenses; and the defendant's plea to any such crime may subject him to automatic deportation and removal from the United States. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1227(a)(2) et seq. Defendant affirms that he has been advised of the immigration consequences of pleading guilty and wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that may result from his plea, even if such consequence includes his automatic deportation and removal from the United States.

Defendant understand that if he is not a United States citizen, he has a right to have an attorney for the government or a federal law enforcement official notify a consular officer from his country of nationality that he has been arrested, and he hereby waives that right.


Pursuant to F.R. Crim. P. 43(b)(2) and (3), the Defendant hereby waives his right to be

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The Defendant hereby advises the court that he has read the foregoing Written Plea Agreement and fully understands the contents of this Agreement. Defendant has had adequate opportunity to discuss the foregoing Written Plea Agreement with his counsel and desires to enter into said agreement.

Signed: 
Defendant **CHRISTOPHER I. DURELL**

Dated: 9/11/25

Signed: 
Counsel for Government, **BRIANA M. VOLLMER**

Dated: September 15, 2025

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